

FIE

O woman! woman! when to ill thy mind
Is bent, all hell contains no fiercer fiend. *Pope's Odyssey.*
FERCE. *adj.* [*fer*, French; *ferax*, Latin.]
1. Savage; ravenous; easily enraged.
Thou hunt'st me as a *ferce* lion. *Job.*
2. Vehement in rage; eager of mischief.
Destruction enters in the treacherous wood,
And vengeful slaughter, *ferce* for human blood. *Pope.*
Tyrants *ferce*, that unrelenting die
With that the god, whose earthquakes rock the ground,
Fierce to Phœcia crost the vast profound. *Pope's Odyssey.*
3. Violent; outrageous
Curst be their anger, for it was *ferce*; and their wrath,
for it was cruel. *Gen. xlix. 7.*
4. Passionate; angry; furious.
This *ferce* abridgment
Hath to it circumstantial branches, which
Distinction should be rich in. *Shakespeare's Cymbeline.*
A man brings his mind to be positive and *ferce* for positions
whose evidence he has never examined. *Locke.*
5. Strong; forcible.
The ships, though so great, are driven of *ferce* winds;
yet are they turned about with a very small helm. *Ja. iii. 2.*
FERCELY. *adv.* [from *ferce*.] Violently; furiously.
Battle join'd, and both sides *ferce*ly fought. *Shak. H. VI.*
The defendants, *ferce*ly assailed by their enemies before,
and beaten with the great ordnance behind, were grievously
distressed. *Knolly's History of the Turks.*
The air, if very cold, irritateth the flame, and maketh it
burn more *ferce*ly, as fire scorseth in frosty weather, and so
furthereth the conflagration. *Bacon's Natural History.*
FERCENESS. *n. f.* [from *ferce*.]
1. Ferocity; savageness.
The same defect of heat which gives a *ferceness* to our
natures, may contribute to that roughness of our language.
Swift's Letter to the Lord High Treasurer.
2. Eagerness for blood; fury.
Suddenly there came out of a wood a monstrous lion, with
a the-bear not far from him, of little less *ferceness*. *Sidney.*
3. Quickness to attack; keenness in anger and resentment.
The Greeks are strong, and skilful to their strength,
Fierce to their skill, and to their *ferceness* valiant. *Shak.*
4. Violence; outrageous passion.
His pride and brutal *ferceness* I abhor;
But scorn your mean suspicions of me more. *Dryd. Aureng.*
FERIFACIAS. [*In law.*] A judicial writ, that lies at all
times within the year and day; for him that has recovered in
an action of debt or damages, to the sheriff, to command
him to levy the debt, or the damages of his goods, against
whom the recovery was had. *Cowell.*
FERINESS. *n. f.* [from *ferce*.]
1. Hot qualities; heat; acrimony.
The ashes, by their heat, their *feriness*, and their dryness,
belong to the element of earth. *Boyle.*
2. Heat of temper; intellectual ardour.
The Italians, notwithstanding their natural *feriness* of tem-
per, affect always to appear sober and sedate. *Addison.*
FERY. *adj.* [from *ferce*.]
1. Conflicting of fire.
Scarcely had Phœbus in the gloomy East
Yet harnessed his *ferie* footed team,
Ne rear'd above the earth his flaming crest,
When the last deadly smok aloft did steam. *Fairy Queen.*
I know, thou'dst rather
Follow thine enemy in a *ferie* gulph
Than flatter him in a bower. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*
2. Hot like fire.
Hath thy *ferie* heart so parcht thy entrails,
That not a tear can fall for Rutland's death? *Shak. H. VI.*
3. Vehement; ardent; active.
Then *ferie* expedition be my wings,
Jove's Mercury, and herald for a king. *Shak. Rich. III.*
I drew this gallant head of war,
And cull'd these *ferie* spirits from the world,
To outlook conquest, and to win renown
Ev'n in the jaws of danger and of death. *Shak. K. John.*
4. Passionate; outrageous; easily provoked.
You know the *ferie* quality of the duke;
How unremovable, and fixt he is
In his own course. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*
5. Unrestrained; fierce.
Then, as I said, the duke, great Bolingbroke,
Mounted upon a hot and *ferie* steed,
Which his aspiring rider seem'd to know,
With slow but stately pace kept on his course. *Shak. R. II.*
Through Elis and the Grecian towns he flew;
Th' audacious wretch four *ferie* couriers drew. *Dryden.*
6. Heated by fire.
The sword which is made *ferie* doth not only cut, by rea-
son of the sharpness which simply it hath, but also burn by
means of that heat which it hath from fire. *Hooker, b. v. 54.*

FIG

See! from the brake the whirling pheasant springs,
And mounts exulting on triumphant wings:
Short is his joy; he feels the *ferie* wound,
Flutters in blood, and panting beats the ground. *Pope.*
FIFE. *n. f.* [*fife*, French.] A pipe blown to the drum; mi-
litary wind-musick.
Farewell the plumed troops, and the big war
That make ambition virtue! oh farewell!
Farewell the neighing steed and the shrill trump,
The spirit-stirring drum, th' ear-piercing *fife*. *Shak. Othello.*
Thus the gay victim, with fresh garlands crown'd,
Pleas'd with the sacred *fife*'s enlivening sound,
Through gazing crowds in solemn state proceeds. *Phillips.*
FIFTEEN. *adj.* [*fifteen*, Saxon.] Five and ten.
I have dreamed and slept above some fifteen years and
more. *Shakespeare's Taming of the Shrew.*
FIFTEENTH. *adj.* [*fifteenth*, Sax.] The ordinal of fifteen;
the fifth after the tenth.
A *fifteenth* part of silver incorporate with gold, will not be
recovered by any water of separation, except you put a greater
quantity of silver to draw up the less. *Bacon's Natural History.*
London sends but four burghesses to parliament, although
it bear the *fifteenth* part of the charge of the whole nation in
all publick taxes and levies. *Gravina's Bills of Mortality.*
FIFTH. *adj.* [*fifth*, Saxon.]
1. The ordinal of five; the next to the fourth.
With smiling aspect you serenely move,
In your *fifth* orb, and rule the realm of love. *Dryden.*
Just as I wish'd, the lots were cast on four,
Myself the *fifth*. *Pope's Odyssey, b. ix.*
2. All the ordinals are taken elliptically for the part which they
express: a *fifth*, a *fifth* part; a *third*, a *third* part.
The publick shall have lost four *fifths* of its annual income
for ever. *Swift.*
FIFTHLY. *adv.* [from *fifth*.] In the fifth place.
Fifthly, living creatures have a more exact figure than
plants. *Bacon's Natural History, No. 607.*
FIFTIETH. *adj.* [*fiftieth*, Saxon.] The ordinal of fifty.
If this medium be rarer within the sun's body than at its
surface, and rarer there than at the hundred part of an inch
from its body, and rarer there than at the *fiftieth* part of an
inch from its body, and rarer there than at the orb of Saturn,
I see no reason why the increase of density should stop any
where. *Newton's Opt.*
FIFTY. *adj.* [*fifty*, Saxon.] Five tens.
A wither'd hermit, five score Winters worn,
Might shake off *fifty* looking in her eye. *Shakespeare.*
Judas ordained captains over thousands, hundreds, *fifties*,
and tens. *1 Mac. iii. 55.*
The breadth of the ark shall be *fifty* cubits. *Gen. vi. 15.*
In the Hebrew there is a particle consisting but of one let-
ter, of which there are reckoned up above *fifty* several signi-
fications. *Locke.*
FIG. *n. f.* [*figus*, Latin; *figa*, Spanish; *figue*, French.]
1. A tree that bears figs.
The characters are: the flowers, which are always inclosed
in the middle of the fruit, consist of the leaf, and are male
and female in the same fruit: the male flowers are situated
towards the crown of the fruit; and the female, growing
near the stalk, are succeeded by small hard seeds: the intire
fruit is, for the most part, turbinate and globular, or of an
oval shape, is fleshy, and of a sweet taste. *Miller.*
Full on its crown a *fig*'s green branches rise,
And shoot a leafy forest to the skies. *Pope's Odyssey, b. xii.*
Or lead me through the maze,
Embowering endless of the Indian *fig*. *Thomson's Summer.*
2. A luscious soft fruit; the fruit of the figtree.
It maketh *figs* better, if a figtree, when it beginneth to
put forth leaves, have his top cut off. *Bacon's Nat. History.*
Figs are great subduers of acrimony. *Arbutnot on Diet.*
To *FIG.* *v. a.* [See *FIGO*.]
1. To insult with sco's or contemptuous motions of the fingers.
When Pistol lies, do this, and *fig* me like
The bragging Spaniard. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*
2. To put something useless into one's head. Low cant.
Away to the fow the goes, and *figs* her in the crown with
another story. *L'Estrange.*
FIGAPPLE. *n. f.* A fruit.
A *figapple* hath no core or kernel, in these resembling a *fig*,
and differing from other apples. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
FIGMARGOLD. *n. f.* A plant. It is succulent, and has the ap-
pearance of houseleek; the leaves grow opposite by pairs. *Mill.*
To *FIGHT.* *v. n.* preter. *fought*; part. pass. *fought*. [*pechan*,
Saxon.]
1. To contend in battle; to war; to make war; to battle;
to contend in arms. It is used both of armies and single com-
batants.
King Henry, be thy tide right or wrong,
Lord Clifford vows to *fight* in thy defence. *Shak. Hen. VI.*
Fierce fiery warriors *fight* upon the clouds
In ranks and squadrons, and right form of war. *Shak.*
The common question is, if we must now surrender Spain,
what

FIG

what have we been *fighting* for all this while? The answer is
ready: we have been *fighting* for the ruin of the publick in-
terest, and the advancement of a private. *Swift.*
For her confederate nations *fought*, and kings were slain,
Troy was o'erthrown, and a whole empire fell. *Phillips.*
2. To combat; to duel; to contend in single fight.
One shall undertake to *fight* against another. *2 Esdr. xiii.*
The poor wren,
The most diminutive of birds, will *fight*,
The young ones in her nest, against the owl. *Shak. Macb.*
3. To act as a soldier in any case.
Richard, that robb'd the lion of his heart,
And *fought* the holy wars in Palestine,
By this brave duke came early to his grave. *Shak. K. John.*
Greatly unfortunate, he *fights* the cause
Of honour, virtue, liberty and Rome. *Addison's Cato.*
4. It has with before the person opposed.
5. To contend.
The hot and cold, the dry and humid *fight*. *Sandys.*
To *FIGHT.* *v. a.* To war against; to combat against.
Himself alone, an equal match he boasts,
To *fight* the Phrygian and the Aulonian hosts. *Dryd. En.*
FIGHT. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Battle.
2. Combat; duel.
Herilus in single *fight* I flew,
Whom with three lives Peronia did endure;
And thrice I sent him to the Stygian shore,
'Till the last ebbing soul return'd no more. *Dryden's En.*
3. Something to screen the combatants in ships.
FIGHTING. *n. f.* [from *fight*.] Warrior; duellist.
I will return again into the house, and desire some conduct
of the lady: I am no *fighter*. *Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.*
O, 'tis the coldest youth upon a charge,
The most deliberate *fighter*! *Dryden's All for Love.*
FIGHTING. *participle adj.* [from *fight*.]
1. Qualified for war; fit for battle.
An host of *fighting* men went out to war by bands. *2 Chro.*
2. Occupied by war; being the scene of war.
In *fighting* fields, as far the spear I throw
As flies the arrow from the well-drawn bow. *Pope's Odyssey.*
FIGMENT. *n. f.* [*figmentum*, Latin.] An invention; a fic-
tion; the idea feigned.
Upon the like grounds was raised the *figment* of Briareus,
who, dwelling in a city called Hecatonchiria, the fancies of
those times assigned him an hundred hands. *Brown's Vulg. Err.*
The most frightful passages, probably so strange as to be
hardly credible; it carried rather an appearance of *figment*
and invention, in those that handed down the memory of it,
than of truth and reality. *Woodward's Natural History.*
FIGPECKER. *n. f.* [*fig* and *peck*.] A bird.
FIGULATE. *adj.* [from *figulus*, Latin.] Made of potters
clay.
FIGURABLE. *adj.* [from *figura*, Latin.] Capable of being
brought to certain form, and retained in it. Thus lead is
figurable, but not water.
The differences of impenetrable and not impenetrable, *figurable*
and not *figurable*, scissible and not scissible, are plebeian no-
tions. *Bacon's Natural History.*
FIGURABILITY. *n. f.* [from *figurable*.] The quality of being
capable of a certain and stable form.
FIGURAL. *adj.* [from *figura*.]
1. Represented by delineation.
Incongruities have been committed by geographers in the
figural resemblances of several regions. *Brown's Vulg. Err.*
2. **FIGURAL Numbers.** Such numbers as do or may represent
some geometrical figure, in relation to which they are always
considered, and are either lineary, superficial, or solid. *Harris.*
FIGURATE. *adj.* [*figuratus*, Latin.]
1. Of a certain and determinate form.
Plants are all *figurate* and determinate, which inanimate
bodies are not; for look how far the spirit is able to spread
and continue itself, so far goeth the shape or figure, and then
is determined. *Bacon.*
2. Resembling any thing of a determinate form: as, *figurate*
stones retaining the forms of shells in which they were formed
by the deluge.
3. **FIGURATE Counterpoint.** [In musick.] That wherein there
is a mixture of discords along with the concords. *Harris.*
4. **FIGURATE Descant.** [In musick.] That wherein discords
are concerned, as well, though not so much, as concords;
and may well be termed the ornament or rhetorical part of
musick, in regard that in this are introduced all the varieties
of points, figures, syncopes, diversities of measures, and
whatever else is capable of adorning the composition. *Harris.*
FIGURATION. *n. f.* [*figuratus*, Latin.]
1. Determination to a certain form.
Neither doth the wind, as far as it carrieth a voice, with
motion thereof confound any of the delicate and articulate
figurations of the air in variety of words. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
2. The act of giving a certain form.

FIG

If motion be in a certain order, there followeth vivification
and *figuration* in living creatures perfect. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
FIGURATIVE. *adj.* [*figurativus*, Fr. from *figura*, Latin.]
1. Representing something else; typical; representative.
This, they will say, was *figurative*, and served by God's
appointment but for a time, to shadow out the true everlast-
ing glory of a more divine sanctity; where into Christ being
long since entered, it seemeth that all these curious exornations
should rather cease. *Hooker, b. v. f. 15.*
2. Changed by rhetorical figures from the primitive meaning;
not literal.
How often have we been railed at for understanding words
in a *figurative* sense, which cannot be literally understood
without overthrowing the plainest evidence of sense and
reason. *Stillingfleet's Def. of Disc. on Rom. idol.*
This is a *figurative* expression, where the words are used in
a different sense from what they signify in their first ordinary
intention. *Rogers, Sermon 14.*
3. Full of figures; full of rhetorical exornations; full of
changes from the original sense.
Sublime subjects ought to be adorned with the sublimest and
with the most *figurative* expressions. *Dryden's Juvenal, Pref.*
FIGURATIVELY. *adv.* [from *figurative*.] By a figure; in a
sense different from that which words originally imply; not
literally.
The custom of the apostle is *figuratively* to transfer to him-
self, in the first person, what belongs to others. *Hammond.*
The words are different, but the sense is still the same; for
therein are *figuratively* intended Uzziah and Ezechias. *Brown.*
Satyr is a kind of poetry in which human vices are repre-
sented, partly dramatically, partly simply; but, for the most
part, *figuratively* and occultly. *Dryden's Juvenal, Dedicat.*
FIGURE. *n. f.* [*figura*, Latin.]
1. The form of any thing as terminated by the outline.
Flowers have all exquisite *figures*, and the flower numbers
are chiefly five and four; as in primroses, briar-roses, single
muskroses, single pinks and gilliflowers, &c. which have five
leaves; lilies, flower-de-luces, borage, buglafs, &c. which
have four leaves. *Bacon's Natural History.*
Men find green clay that is soft as long as it is in the wa-
ter, so that one may print on it all kind of *figures*, and give it
what shape one pleases. *Boyle.*
Figures are properly modifications of bodies; for pure space
is not any where terminated, nor can be: whether there be
or be not body in it, it is uniformly continued. *Locke.*
2. Shape; form; semblance.
He hath borne himself beyond the promise of his age,
doing in the *figure* of a lamb the feats of a lion. *Shakespeare.*
3. Person; external form; appearance graceful or inelegant,
mean or grand.
The blue German shall the Tigris drink;
E'er I, forsaking gratitude and truth,
Forget the *figure* of that godlike youth. *Dryden's Virgil.*
I was charmed with the gracefulness of his *figure* and deli-
very, as well as with his discourses. *Addison's Spectator.*
A good *figure*, or person, in man or woman, gives credit
at first sight to the choice of either. *Clarissa.*
4. Distinguished appearance; eminence; remarkable character.
While fortune favour'd, while his arms support
The cause, and rul'd the counsels of the court,
I made some *figure* there; nor was my name
Obscure, nor I without my share of fame. *Dryden's En.*
The speech, I believe, was not so much designed by the
knight to inform the court, as to give him a *figure* in my eye,
and keep up his credit in the country. *Addison's Spectator.*
Not a woman shall be unexplained that makes a *figure* either
as a maid, a wife, or a widow. *Addison's Guardian.*
Whether or no they have done well to set you up for
making another kind of *figure*, time will witness. *Addison.*
Many princes made very ill *figures* upon the throne, who
before were the favourites of the people. *Addison's Freeholder.*
5. A statue; an image; something formed in resemblance of
something else.
The several statues, which seemed at a distance to be made
of the whitest marble, were nothing else but so many *figures*
in snow. *Addison's Freeholder.*
6. Representations in painting; persons exhibited in colours.
In the principal *figures* of a picture the painter is to em-
ploy the fineness of his art; for in them consists the principal
beauty of his work. *Dryden's Daphne.*
My favourite books and pictures sell;
Kindly throw in a little *figure*,
And set the price upon the bigger. *Prior.*
7. Arrangement; disposition; modification.
The *figure* of a syllogism is the proper disposition of the
middle term with the parts of the question. *Watts's Logic.*
8. A character denoting a number.
Hearts, tongues, *figures*, scribes, bards, poets cannot
Think, speak, cast, write, sing, number
His love to Anthony. *Shakespeare's Ant. and Cleop. tra.*
He that seeketh to be eminent amongst able men, hath a
great